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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007) – NEPAL 10676.0

Food Assistance for Conflict-Affected Populations

Number of beneficiaries	1.3 million
Duration of project	12 months, (July 2007 – June 2008)
WFP food tonnage	39,405 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	15.0 million
Total cost to WFP	48.8 million

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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ABSTRACT

1. In April 2006, Nepal ended an eleven-year internal conflict with a peace agreement between the new government – known as the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) – and the Communist Party of Nepal Maoists (CPNM). Numerous immediate needs require an emergency response: the new government must address the grievances that led to conflict and support the needs of returnees, internally displaced people (IDPs), ex-combatants and children associated with the armed forces. The Government must also address new insecurity caused by activists in the Terai that could lead to renewed conflict.
2. Despite the interim constitution and the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in January 2007, life-threatening situations persist in many parts of the country. Much of the population most affected by conflict are recovering from four consecutive years of drought and two consecutive years of flooding; loss of livelihoods and food insecurity were exacerbated by the extended conflict. The crop and food supply assessment mission (CFSAM) led by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in April 2007 confirmed the seriousness of the food-security situation. In some conflict-affect areas, 65 percent of children under 5 are chronically malnourished; acute malnutrition levels are up to 21 percent.
3. New insecurity and ethnic tensions have affected government plans for elections, improved law and order and attention to issues such as unequal access to food and basic services. Immediate work to address food insecurity and re-establish livelihoods is needed to support peace building and reduce the risk of renewed conflict.
4. Under this operation, WFP will provide emergency food assistance for 1.3 million conflict-affected people between July 2007 and June 2008 to safeguard lives and livelihoods and contribute to peace. Special emphasis will be given to targeting women, children, ethnic minorities and vulnerable indigenous populations. WFP's three priorities will be rebuilding critical infrastructure, return and reintegration of refugees, and non-formal education.
5. WFP's infrastructure and field presence will be used to extend assistance to targeted groups in remote regions. PRRO 10676.0 will be aligned with the UNMIN strategic framework for supporting the peace process, WFP's Strategic Objectives, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the work of the United Nations country team and the Government. The primary government partner will be the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction; the ministries of finance, agriculture, local development and supply will be involved.
6. Because this is a short-term intervention, it has been planned in conjunction with the United Nations development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) so that subsequent support for longer-term activities will be given through the country programme.